

Message

**From:** This Week @ EPA [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=7A2F56A248E647F0BD8A89E90EC7AFBC-EPA NEWS]  
**Sent:** 8/19/2019 6:16:48 PM  
**To:** This Week @ EPA [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7a2f56a248e647f0bd8a89e90ec7afbc-EPA News]  
**Subject:** This Week @ EPA - August 19, 2019



August 19, 2019

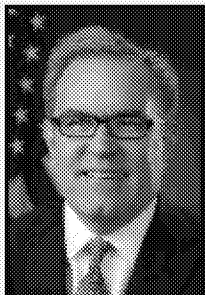
Taken by Paymon Danesh of Region 5 in Millennium Park in Chicago, Illinois

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## Senior Leadership Update

### Administrator Wheeler visited Monaca, Pennsylvania with President Trump

Last week Administrator Wheeler visited the new Pennsylvania Shell ethylene cracker plant in Monaca, Pennsylvania with President Trump and Department of Energy Secretary Rick Perry. To learn more about this visit, please read the [press release](#).



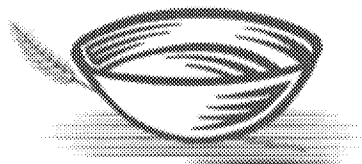
## Hot Topics

### Feds Feed Families final week!

The Feds Feed Families (FFF) Campaign is in its last week; it ends on Friday, August 23. If you need a bit of motivation on why it is important to contribute to FFF, please watch the [new video](#) with Simona Foster, EPA's Feds Feed Families national coordinator.

Since 2009, when the Feds Feed Families annual campaign began, federal employees like you have contributed over 80 million pounds of food. The food collected through the campaign is distributed to food banks and pantries across the country. Traditionally these organizations see a decrease in donations and an increase in need during the summer months. The Feds Feed Families annual campaigns run during the summer to help food banks and pantries during the time of year in which they most need assistance.

Please visit the [FFF intranet site](#) for additional information on the campaign.



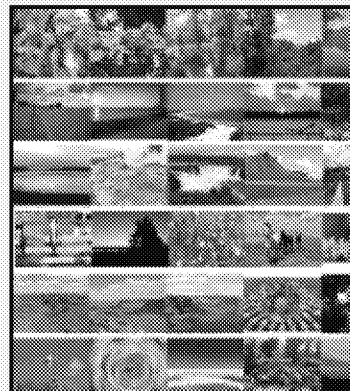
feds feed families

"Do Right Feed Everyone"



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Click on the image below to watch the new video with Simona Foster, EPA's FFF national coordinator on why important to give to FFF.



Please enjoy this [slideshow of photographs](#) taken by EPA employees across all regions. Here at EPA, we love to showcase the talent and diversity of our staff, and we are proud to share this presentation with you all!

The next photography submission session will begin in mid-September. Look at future issues of This Week @ EPA for the details. Enjoy!

*Note: The PowerPoint might take a minute to open and load. To run the presentation automatically, on the ribbon across the top click on "View" and then "Play from Beginning."*

**EPA releases FY2018 Progress Report showing continued commitment to Environmental Justice**

On August 13th, EPA released its [Environmental Justice FY2018 Progress Report](#), required by E.O. 12898. The report shows how

EPA is providing greater certainty to our federal, states, tribal and local partners; certainty in EPA programs; and certainty in how we communicate risk. This certainty will help to strengthen environmental and public health protections for low-income, minority, indigenous, and disadvantaged communities that are disproportionately likely to live near contaminated lands or be impacted by environmental hazards.

The report describes EPA efforts to remediate Superfund sites, and return these sites to productive use to communities, to improve air quality, and to finance critical investments to improve the nation's water infrastructure. It also describes actions to protect children from lead exposure, to provide funding and technical support for community-driven projects, and to integrate environmental justice into enforcement and science.

Please visit [EPA's Environmental Justice Program site](#) for more information.

## **EPA Plans to Award More Than \$7.5 Million to Improve Water Quality in the Gulf of Mexico**



Last week, EPA announced that it anticipates awarding more than \$7.5 million in Farmer to Farmer Cooperative Agreements to fund projects that improve water quality, habitat, and environmental education in the Gulf of Mexico watershed.

This Gulf of Mexico Program initiative promotes innovative, market-based solutions for monitoring and improving water quality while also maintaining a vital agricultural economy.

Congratulations to the seven recipients!

- B.F. Smith Foundation – \$1,149,813 (Mississippi)
- Iowa Dept. of Agriculture and Land Stewardship – \$1,150,000 (Iowa)
- Mississippi State University – \$1,088,025 (Mississippi)
- Practical Farmers of Iowa – \$935,788 (Iowa)
- Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies – \$1,000,000 (Florida)
- University of Iowa – \$1,064,926 (Iowa)
- Winrock International – \$1,150,000 (Arkansas)

Since 2018, approximately \$9.5 million has been awarded through EPA's Farmer to Farmer Cooperative Agreements.

Read the [press release](#) and learn more about the Gulf of Mexico Program [here](#).

### **Reminder for mandatory training: Information Security and Privacy Awareness Training**

The FY19 Information Security and Privacy Awareness Training course provides four modules with dynamic content on information security and privacy, scenarios, and a modules test. ***Failure to complete this mandatory course by September 30 will result in loss of EPA network access.***



Module 1: Information Security and Privacy Basics

Module 2: Securing Information

Module 3: Risks, Threats, and Countermeasures

Module 4: Incident Response and Reporting

Course objectives:

- Develop and demonstrate foundational-level knowledge of cybersecurity;
- Discuss your role in the EPA cybersecurity strategy;
- Employ best practices to protect privacy and safeguard information, including Controlled Unclassified Information;
- Recognize cyber threats to information systems;
- Identify and report potential cybersecurity and privacy incidents promptly.

Visit [EPA University](#) for more information on FY19 mandatory courses, and log into [FedTalent](#) to take this course prior to the September 30 deadline.

**Questions?** Please contact your local training officer if you have any problems accessing or completing your courses. For technical help with FedTalent, please contact the Department of the Interior's Customer Support Center (they manage the support for FedTalent) at 1-888-367-1622 option 3, then 6; or email [HRMS\\_Helpdesk@ios.doi.gov](mailto:HRMS_Helpdesk@ios.doi.gov)

## Key Dates



Click on each event below to get more details.

Click on the "Add to Calendar" button to add an event to your Outlook calendar.

If you see a log-in screen, please click on your EPA email, or if prompted, enter your email and network password.

**This Week:**

**Aug. 23:** [Last day of the Feds Feed Families campaign!](#) [ADD TO CALENDAR](#)

**Coming soon:**

**Aug. 27:** [PeoplePlus early closeout - all corrected timecards due](#) [ADD TO CALENDAR](#)

**Aug. 29:** [PeoplePlus early closeout – all timecards submitted & approved](#) [ADD TO CALENDAR](#)

**Sept. 5:** [ELMS Overview webinar](#) [ADD TO CALENDAR](#)

**September 30:** [Mandatory Training deadline!](#) [ADD TO CALENDAR](#)

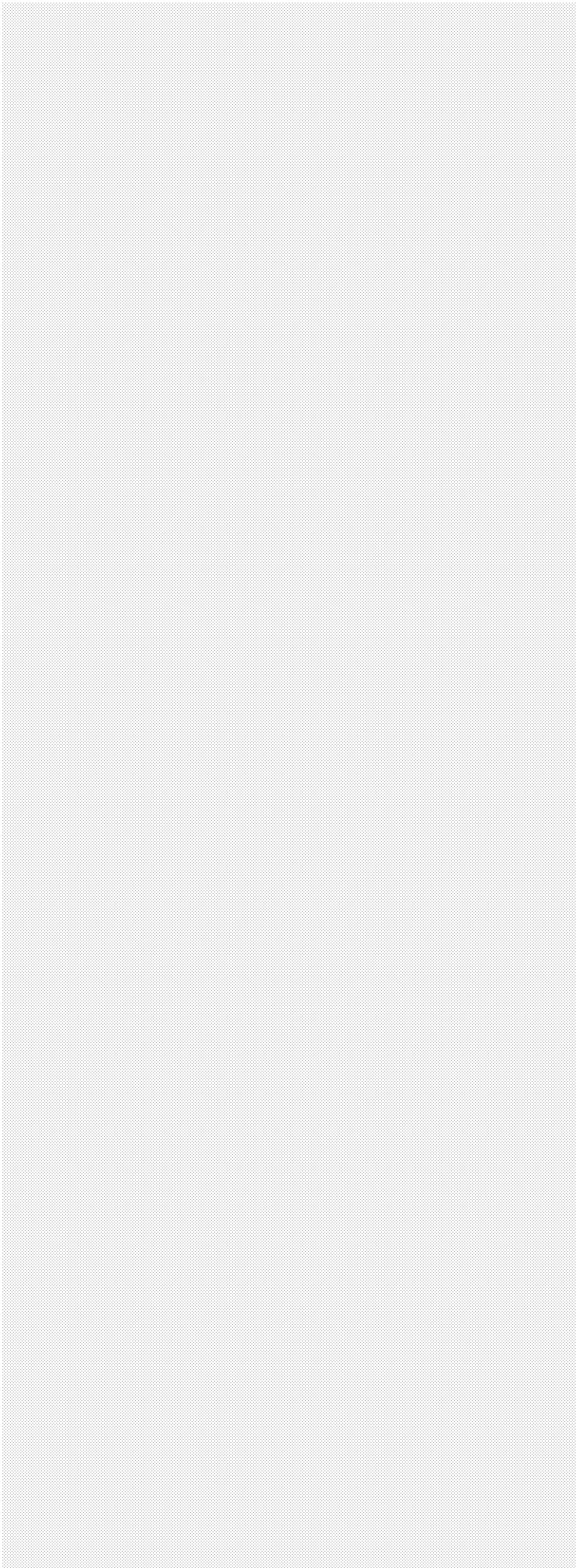
## Video Spotlight

### [Strategic Watershed Awareness and Monitoring Program Gulf Guardian Youth Environmental Education Awardee](#)

Strategic Watershed Awareness and Monitoring Program (SWAMP) is an education and monitoring program designed to broaden the understanding of watersheds, water quality, and how citizens impact the two. Mobile Baykeeper personnel educate high school students on watersheds and enlist students to receive training to monitor specific, local waterways. Staff train participants monitor water quality, assess shoreline/stream bank conditions, and track changes over time. Through participation in SWAMP, students have the opportunity to investigate a water quality or pollution problem and develop a solution that can make a difference for their quality of life, local economy and natural resources.



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It's that time of year again. EPA staff must complete 2019 mandatory training requirements by September 30. Visit [EPA University](#) to review the list of FY19 mandatory training courses.

## Health & Wellness

**Mind your mental health**

## IT Corner

**OMS is on a mission to support you**



According to the [National Alliance on Mental Illness \(Exit\)](#), one in five American adults experience mental illness annually. Examples of common mental illnesses include [depression](#) and [anxiety disorders](#). To help maintain your mental health and manage any mental illness symptoms, here are some helpful tips:

- Make [eating a balanced diet](#), [getting enough sleep](#), and [exercising regularly](#) part of your lifestyle.
- [Manage stress](#) by planning ahead, avoiding stressful situations, and taking time to rest and relax.
- Identify any workplace or home situations that trigger stress for you.
- Work with your personal physician, therapist, or other mental health professional to determine the cause(s) of your mental illness symptoms and brainstorm healthy ways to address them.
- Be prepared to address your mental illness symptoms by creating a plan of action.
- Ask trusted family members or friends to help you monitor your mental health.

For more information including additional resources for managers, visit the [Mental Health page](#) on the Office of Mission Support's Safety and Sustainability Division intranet site.

recently updated the [CX Website](#) to reflect all OMS services and enhanced support functions, which help increase employee engagement and improve support of EPA's mission. Check out the [CX Website](#) to learn how OMS is working hard to improve your daily work life!

#### Learn More:

- Visit the [Customer Experience Awards page](#) to see our most recent CX Award Winners!
- Join a [CX Professional Community of Interest](#) or take on-line [training](#) to learn more about CX.
- Learn how OMS collects [customer feedback](#) to identify issues "pain points" and desired improvements within a service to enhance customer experiences.
- Visit the [CX Action Tracker](#) to review customer feedback and responses by the OMS Subject Matter Experts. (Note: Requires LAN User ID & Password).

Let us know your experience at [customer.experience@epa.gov](mailto:customer.experience@epa.gov).

We would love to hear your feedback about this newsletter. Please contact us at [internalcomms@epa.gov](mailto:internalcomms@epa.gov) | <http://intranet.epa.gov/internalcomms>  
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